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In the Claims

Please amend the claims by replacing all prior versions, and listings, of claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 as modified by 68 Fed. Reg. 38611 (June 30, 2003) as follows:

Please cancel claims 1-7 without disclaimer or prejudice to applicants' rights to pursue the subject matter of these claims in this or another application.

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 9, wherein the column is a N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS-)-activated Sepharose High Performance Column.

9. (New) A method of treating a subject having systemic lupus erythematosus comprising extracorporeal treatment of plasma from the subject by affinity absorption column chromatography, wherein the column comprises a peptide having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 1 and returning plasma so treated to the patient.

10. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the peptide is coupled to the column using a coupling buffer.